

NASA Advisory Council's Aeronautics Committee Report & Discussion

October 12, 2006

Topics to be addressed

- Thermal Protection Systems – Current Research & Development at AFRL and NASA
- Industry/NASA Cooperation

Committee Questions & Potential Recommendation

QUESTIONS:

- **Is the Air Force aware of the TPS requirements for NASA (Near-term; Far-term?)**
- **Are there clear synergies between the Air Force “Operationally Responsive Space” capabilities and NASA’s CEV program?**
- **Does NASA agree with the AFRL “TPS Approach”?**

POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION:

- **NASA consider establishing a “TPS Technology Consortium” (with DoD and others) similar to the “Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology” program to share critical technology needs/ideas/programs**

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Comments from Industry

- These Industry Representatives represent
 - The Aircraft Industries Association
 - A Small Aircraft Company
 - A Medium Sized Helicopter Company
 - A Large Commercial Aircraft Company

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Comments from Industry

- General Consensus of Industry
 - Would like to have NASA listen to us
 - Collaboration is best if based on engineer to engineer communication
 - Helicopter collaboration is non-existent
 - Some gaps exist; funding to cover TRL 4-6 is limited or non-existent

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Comments from Industry

- AIA is interested in increasing NASA's Aeronautics budget
- The Heritage Foundation concluded that Aeronautics is a sunset industry, so no government support is appropriate
- Other governmental issues are a contributor to budget issues

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Committee Conclusion:

- When practical, NASA-Industry collaboration is of benefit to both parties